



GIJON, Spain

Fighting Youth Unemployment in Gijon

Key facts

Through the Youth Action Agency, the City of Gijon provides different “education and skills” itineraries for 200 young people every year to include them in the local labour market. The case is a good example of how to provide adult learning through multi-level and multi-stakeholder governance systems.

Timeframe and funding	The agency, launched in 2014 and is still in place is founded partly by transfers from national/regional government and the city-level budget.
City population	271,780
Governing body	Gijon City Council
Link	Fighting Youth Unemployment in Gijon

Main objectives

The key objective of the programme is:

- To foster collaboration among the main stakeholders working in employment, education and youth in the city in order to fight youth unemployment and in supporting young people aged 16-30 with their integration into the labour market.

Content and mode of delivery



The agency offers integral itineraries with different actions adapted to the young peoples' profiles (in line with their educational level and skills, among other factors). The itineraries are developed in close cooperation with employers so to ensure that they cover the present and future labour market demands. The programme involves 200 young people each year (100 in the first six months and another 100 in the last six months of the year). The young individuals are, among other things identified by "street counsellors" who are youth workers who promote the programme and its activities to young people not in employment, education or training all around the city. Every young individual who is engaged in the programme is followed by a personal tutor and offered the chance to be enrolled in different training sessions, including on the labour market and job opportunities in cooperation with employers, alternative educational or training itineraries in secondary school, self-employment, volunteering activities as an alternative method to practice key skills, and occupational training. In addition, the youth are offered job placements that support informal learning, coaching and development of specific skills such as digital and soft skills and networking opportunities with employers.

Stakeholders



A key element of the Youth Activation Agency is the multilevel and multi-stakeholder governance system, which involves stakeholders from

- The Regional Education Government and Regional Employment Government
- The Youth Association
- The Regional Employers Association

Through the involvement of these stakeholders the programme is better able to reach young people (through the Youth Association), involving the employers in the project (regional employers association), managing the presentations in secondary schools (regional education government) or accessing to the regional training offer (regional employment government).

Key challenges, success factors & transferability



Among the key challenges to the implementation of the programme have been:

- Aligning the interests of the many different stakeholders (especially after the initial funding from the European Social Fund ended). This required that the city took a strong leadership role in demonstrating, year by year, the benefits of the project and making sure that the knowledge gained remained in each organisation or stakeholder.
- To motivate young people and involve more enterprises in the programme. This challenge was overcome by assigning the necessary human resources to the project as well as personal tutors to each young individual.

The city highlights local partnerships (including decisions on type of partners, agreement models and division of responsibilities), the methodology of work (which affects the types of activities and services provided for participants) and the job placement programme as key success factors in the programme that could be transferrable to other places.

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